

Library

URBAN DISTRICT OF CLEVEDON
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1955

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

Herewith is a brief account of the health and sanitary conditions of the district, including a summary of your Sanitary Inspector's report for the year 1955, which I have pleasure in submitting to you.

The year has not been without incident, though nothing of a serious nature falls to be reported upon. Influenza predominated during the first quarter and its incidence fell most heavily upon the elderly, but the type was mild in nature and so the mortality was low. Then Measles appeared early in May and reached epidemic proportions in June. But the type was not severe and no casualties occurred and by the end of August it burnt itself out. A few cases of Whooping Cough ran concurrently with the Measles but caused no anxiety.

A small outbreak of Food Poisoning due to the ingestion of a reheated pork pie caused a Salmonella infection in considerably more cases than the notifications suggest, but all made a satisfactory recovery and no secondary cases occurred.

In September Poliomyelitis appeared and nine cases were notified, five were treated in hospital and all made complete recoveries. The unusual occurrence of three cases in one family lost in significance as the diagnoses were not confirmed by hospital investigation.

Diphtheria was again absent, but I must repeat the warning that there is no cause for complacency as the disease is just as deadly as ever and the only remedy is adequate immunisation of the whole child population.

All the public medical services function smoothly, the Hospital makes its contribution to the welfare of the community, the Maternity Home meets all local and district needs, several Nursing Homes cater for the elderly sick and infirm, the Ambulance Service is ever ready, and the magnificent work of the District Nurses is beyond praise.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the co-operation of my colleagues, the help of all your staff and the assistance of the Somerset County and Bristol Health Authorities.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

G. Macleod.

5th May 1956.

STATISTICS

Area of District	3464 acres.
Population (mid year estimate)	9710
Number of inhabited houses and flats	4200
Rateable value	£85,390.
Estimated product of a penny rate	£335.

Comparability Factors	-	For births	1.20
		For deaths	0.59

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	47	58	105
Illegitimate	1	3	4

109.

Birth Rate per 1000
of population (corrected) 13.5

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	0	2

Still Birth Rate per 1000
live and still births 18

80.7 of the local births were at Maternity Homes.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	72	100	172

Death Rate per 1000 of
population (corrected) 10.4

Average age at death 74.5 years

Death of infant under one year - 1 (male)
(Of Bronchopneumonia at two weeks)

Some of the principal causes of death were:-

Cancer of lung and bronchus	-	4.
Other malignant diseases	-	20
Coronary Heart disease	-	31
Heart and other circulatory diseases	32	
Vascular diseases of the nervous system	33	
Pneumonia and bronchitis	-	14
Influenza	-	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	2
Other notifiable diseases	-	0

<u>Notifiable Diseases</u>	<u>No. of cases</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Whooping cough	13	0	0
Measles	193	0	0
Poliomyelitis	9	5	0
Puerperal pyrexia	2	0	0
Food poisoning	4	1	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	0

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
15 - 25	0	1	0	0	Nil.
25 - 35	0	1	0	0	"
35 - 45	1	0	0	0	"
45 - 55	1	0	0	1 (male)	"
Over 55	1	0	0	1 (male)	"

3 2 2

Sanitation

House refuse is collected weekly by direct labour in a specially equipped vehicle and disposed of at a controlled tip, and trade refuse is likewise collected at a cost of £1.4.0 per annum per business.

Cess-pits are emptied free of charge twice yearly by the Local Authority and extra services, if requested, are charged for on a time basis.

There are estimated to be 3,000 W.C.s in the District and twelve pail closets.

The public water supply is ample in quantity and found to be pure in quality by chemical and bacteriological tests. Three houses at Nailsea Wall on the fringe of the Urban District have had a piped supply extended to them at a cost of £843., while it is estimated that to supply nine houses in the Norton's Wood area the cost will be £2,450.

The marine lake which is owned by the Local Authority is filled by tidal action and the water, which is not filtered, is heavily charged with suspended matter; it is not chlorinated. This suspended matter acts as an irritant to bathers producing an eczema of the external ear passage; wearing of ear plugs would lessen this risk.

Housing

The preservation of the older properties and the correction of defects in some modern types and the meeting of calls for accommodation from those on the waiting list are a constant anxiety to the members of the Health and Housing Committee. In this connection it is quite gratifying to see that some old houses in Moor Lane which, during the years, called for official action to effect essential repairs have, since their acquisition by the occupiers, been transformed into satisfactory and pleasant homes. Several old cottages have been similarly reconditioned by landlords or owner-occupiers, but basement flats are still in occupation where irremediable dampness renders them unfit for human occupation.

There are in the district 2,737 permanent dwellings of which the Local Authority owns 394.

No major action has been taken under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

	Houses erected during year	Houses in course of erection	Conversion into flats	Conversion of two houses to one
By Local Authority	30	20	0	0
By Private Enterprise	<u>31</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	61	40	10	0

Number of post-war houses erected from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1955.

<u>By Local Authority</u>	<u>By Private enterprise</u>	Housing Programme for 1956
256	131	20 traditional houses and bungalows.

Number of temporary units occupied, Prefabs 20.
Huts 0.

Number of houses found overcrowded 0.

Number of houses closed as result of undertaking by owners, or after issue of Closing Order 2.

Number of houses demolished during year 0.

Number of houses made fit during year 13.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of the year 146.

Improvement grants under Housing Act 1949 - 1954.
31-7-49 to 31-12-54. - nil.

1955	Received Appns: No:	Approved Apps: No:	Rejected Apps: No:	Under consideration Apps: No:	Withdrawn. Apps: No:
	9	6	6	0	1

Average cost per dwelling approved - £304.
Average rent fixed £68.

Camping Sites

Number for which licences have been issued - 9.
 Maximum number per acre - Caravans 20 ft. apart.
 Tents - 10 ft. "

FOODMilk

Number of Registered Distributors	12.
Number of Registered Dairy Premises (not Dairy Farms)	7.
Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk	12.
Number of supplementary licences issued to Distributors from outside the District	1.

Sampling has been carried out by the County Authority and results have been generally satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture and retail	1.
" " " only	0.
" " " retail "	22.

Slaughter House

The only one in the District, which is owned by the Local Authority, is let to a private slaughterman. There are no others and no horses are slaughtered here. There are no bacon factories and no knackers yards.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed	55	0	20	334	135
No. inspected	55	0	20	334	135
Carcasses part of which was condemned for diseases other than tuberculosis or					
Cysticercus	11	0	0	6	0
Percentage so affected	20%	0	0	1.7%	0
<u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcase	1	0	0	0	0
Part "	0	0	0	0	3
Percentage	1.8%	0	0	0	2.2%
Cysticercus	0	0	0	0	0
Weight (in lbs:) of meat condemned for Tuberculosis	562	0	0	0	24
Other disease	98	0	0	25	0
Totals	660	0	0	25	24

Public Health Staff

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
 Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

J. Topham, A.M.I. Mun.E., M.I.H.E., M.R.San.I.
 Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.